Aspen Aquagrow

User's Manual

Good Ideas Inc.
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CUSTOMERSERVICE@GOODIDEASINC.COM

Limited Warranty

Good Ideas, Inc. warrants this product to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period o one (1) year from the date of the original purchase, when utilized for normal household use, subject to the following conditions, exclusions and exceptions.

Should any defect covered by the terms of the limited warranty be discovered within one (1) year, ***Good Ideas, Inc.*** will repair or replace any defective part provided the unit is returned by the original purchaser, freight prepaid, to:

Good Ideas, Inc.
10047 Keystone Drive
Lake City, PA 16423

The liability of ***Good Ideas, Inc.*** under this warranty is limited solely to the cost of the replacement parts o the complete unit at our option. LABOR CHARGES ARE NOT INCLUDED.

This warranty does not cover normal wear of parts and does not apply to any unit that has been tampered with or used for commercial purposes. This warranty does not apply to any defect arising from misuse of the product, negligence, failure to follow ***Good Ideas, Inc.*** instructions, use on current or voltage other than that stamped on the product, alteration or repair not authorized by ***Good Ideas, Inc.***, or damage due to faulty packaging or mishandling in transit (by any common carrier). Repair or disassembly by anyone other than a ***Good Ideas, Inc.*** authorized service center will void the warranty.

This warranty is extended only to the original purchaser of the unit and excludes all other legal and/or conventional warranties. The responsibility of ***Good Ideas, Inc.***, if any, is limited to the specific obligations expressly assumed by it under the terms of the limited warranty. In no event is ***Good Ideas, Inc.*** liable for incidental or consequential damages of any nature whatsoever. Some States/Provinces do not permit the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights which vary from state to state or province to province.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your aquaponic system, please contact Customer Service. Please **do not return any product without contacting *Good Ideas, Inc.* for return authorization.** Unauthorized returns, as well as C.O.D. shipments, will be refused.

*Important: After receiving return authorization, carefully pack item to avoid damage in shipping. Be sure to include your name, complete address and phone number with note giving purchase information and what you believe is the problem with item. We recommend you insure the package (as damage in shipping is not covered by your warranty). Mark the outside of your package "ATTENTION CUSTOMER SERVICE".

We are constantly striving to improve our products; therefore the specifications contained herein are subject to change without notice.

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Overview

Congratulations on your purchase of an **Aspen Aquagrow system**! Your aquaponics system is designed with a look and size to fit your modern space. First, you will want to carefully read through this manual. Some assembly and setup is required, but we'll have you enjoying your new system in no time!

IMPORTANT

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

Read all Important Safety Instructions and Instructions for Use carefully. Remove and discard all packaging materials and keep them out of the reach of children and pets.

When using an electrical appliance, basic safety precautions should always be observed, including the following:

WARNING: To reduce the risk of fire, electrical shock, or injury:

1. This System is authorized for household/residential use only.
2. Do not allow to be used as a toy. Close attention is necessary when used by or near children or pets. Do not leave unattended.
3. Use only as described and for the uses described in this manual. Use only manufacturer's approved and supplied parts and accessories. Use of other accessories is not recommended and will void warranty.
4. Do not use if power cord or plug has been damaged, or if any part of unit has been damaged. Do not attempt to

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disassemble or repair Pump. Contact ***Good Ideas, Inc.*** for examination or repair.
5. To unplug, always grasp plug to remove from outlet – do not pull on cord.
6. Do not handle cord with wet hands or without shoes on.
7. Keep cord away from heated surfaces (e.g., cooking surfaces), and sharp edges and corners.
8. Follow all labels and instructions on unit.
9. Never use cleaning solutions, perfumes, oils or other chemical substances other than tap or distilled/demineralized water in the Grow Bed or Fish Tank. Use of chemicals in Fish Tank or Grow Bed may damage System and will void warranty.
10. Use ONLY water and mild soap to clean Fish Tank and Grow Bed.
11. Do not move the unit while in use. Always unplug and empty Fish Tank and drain water from Grow Bed before moving.
12. Do not operate around flammable or combustible liquids such as gasoline, or in areas where fumes may be present.
13. To reduce likelihood of circuit overload, do not operate another high wattage appliance on the same circuit. Plug in to a standard (120V, 60Hz) electrical outlet.
14. Do not use extension cords or outlets with inadequate voltage capacity.
15. When not in use, store unit indoors in a cool, dry place.
16. If System is damaged, all repairs must be handled through ***Good Ideas, Inc.*** in order to avoid safety issues to the operator.
17. This System is not intended for use by persons (including children) with reduced physical, sensory or mental capabilities, or lack of experience and knowledge, unless they have been given supervision or instruction concerning use of appliance by a person responsible for their safety.
18. Read and follow all important notices in this guide.

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ADDITIONAL HELP

To stay up-to-date on the latest in the world of Aquaponics, please bookmark and refer to the following sites:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GoodIdeasInc
Twitter: twitter.com/GoodIdeasInc
Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/goodideasinc/
Website: www.goodideasinc.com

For Customer Service, contact:

customerservice@goodideasinc.com
1-866-595-IDEA (4332)

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Getting Started

WHAT'S INCLUDED

On the following pages you will find pictures depicting all of the parts that should be included with your system. Carefully lay out and check all of the parts before beginning assembly. If you think there are any missing parts, please contact us at **customerservice@goodideasinc.com**

In addition to the parts depicted, your Aspen Aquagrow system includes a **Starter Pack** designed to get your system up and running smoothly. Included in the Starter Pack are:

- 60L of expanded clay grow media
- powdered soluble seaweed
- 8oz Nite-Out II Nitrifying Bacteria
- 4oz D-Klor Natural Water Conditioner
- Medium Buffer Bag (mesh bag of ground seashells)

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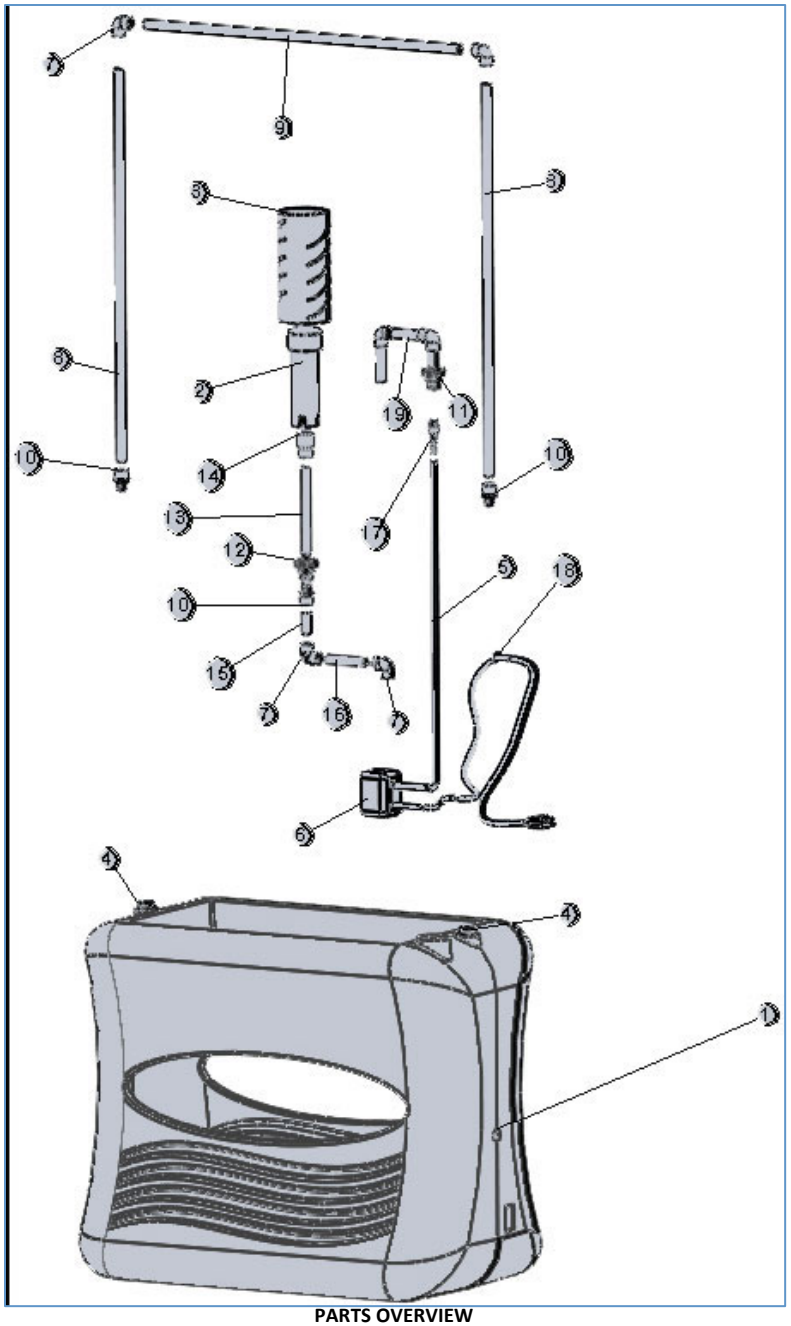

PARTS OVERVIEW

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ITEM NO.	PART NUMBER	QTY.
1	Aquaponics Body	1
2	Bell Siphon Housing	1
3	Gravel Guard	1
4	Spinweld	2
5	1/2" Vinyl Hose	1
6	Pump	1
7	1/2" Plastic Elbow	6
8	Light Bar Vertical	2
9	Light Bar Horizontal	1
10	1/2" Adapter	3
11	Bulkhead Fitting Threaded	1
12	Bulkhead Fitting Unthreaded	1
13	8" Standpipe	1
14	Bell Siphon Intake	1
15	1/2" x 2" Plastic Pipe	1
16	1/2" x 4" Plastic Pipe	1
17	1/2" Hose Barb	1
18	Grommet	1
19	Outlet Assembly	1

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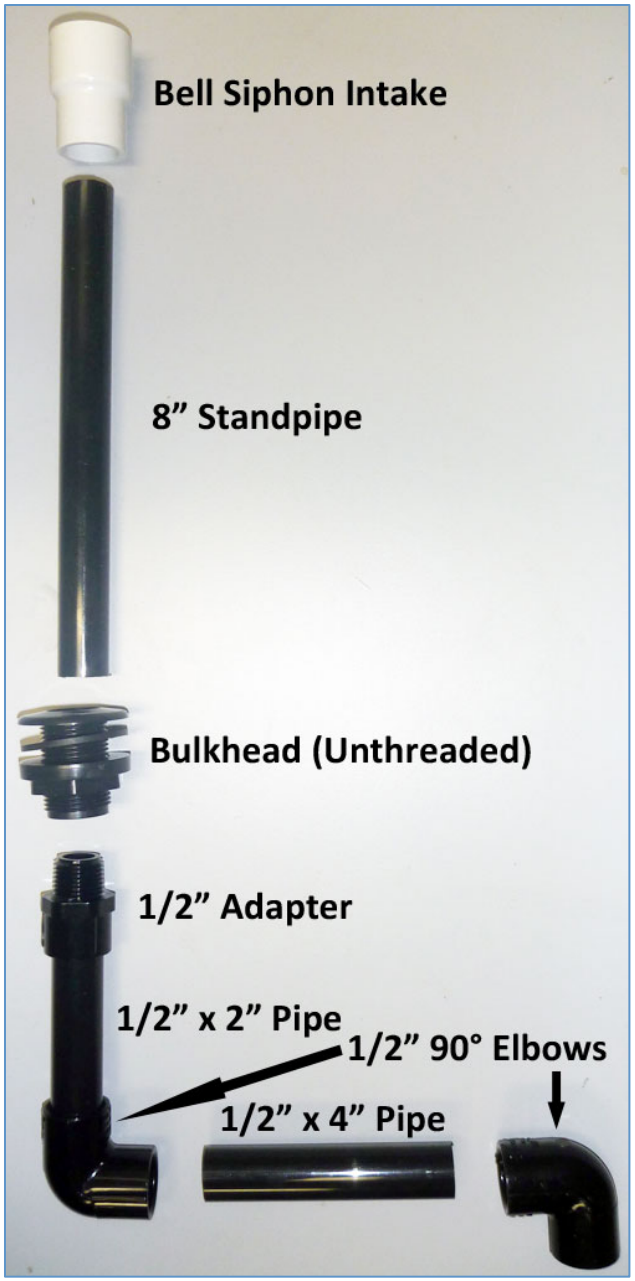

SIPHON PARTS (CLOSE-UP)

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WATER OUTLET PARTS (CLOSE-UP)

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LIGHT BAR (CLOSE-UP)

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TOOLS

You will not need any special tools to set up your system. A **bucket or hose**, however, will be handy for filling your system with fresh water.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES (NOT INCLUDED)

- dechlorinated fresh water
- freshwater aquarium fish
- plants

OPTIONAL SUPPLIES (NOT INCLUDED)

For your convenience, we also offer an optional **Peal Performance Pack** designed to help keep your Aspen Aquagrov system running optimally. Please visit our online store a **goodideasinc.com** for more information and to place an order.

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Build Your System

PREPARE LOCATION

Select a level location to assemble your new system. You will want to assemble the system in the area you plan to place it. Make sure the location you choose is capable of supporting your system after it is filled with water and grow media and stocked with fish & plants.

Protect the area around your system in case any water splashes or spills.

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INSTALL BELL SIPHON

Unscrew the nut from the unthreaded bulkhead, leaving the rubber gasket in place as shown below.

BULKHEAD (UNTHREADED)

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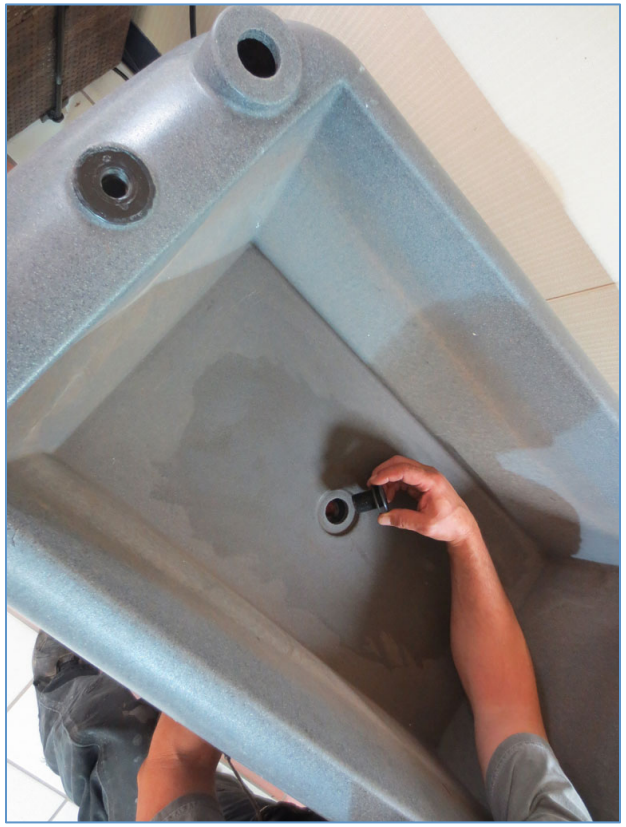
Insert the top of the bulkhead and gasket into the center grow bed drain hole. Screw the bulkhead nut hand-tight onto the bottom of the bulkhead from the *underside* of the grow bed.



BULKHEAD INSTALLATION

On the underside of the grow bed, screw the ½" adapter hand-tight into the bottom of the bulkhead. Slide the ½" x 2" pipe and a ½" 90° elbow together as shown below.

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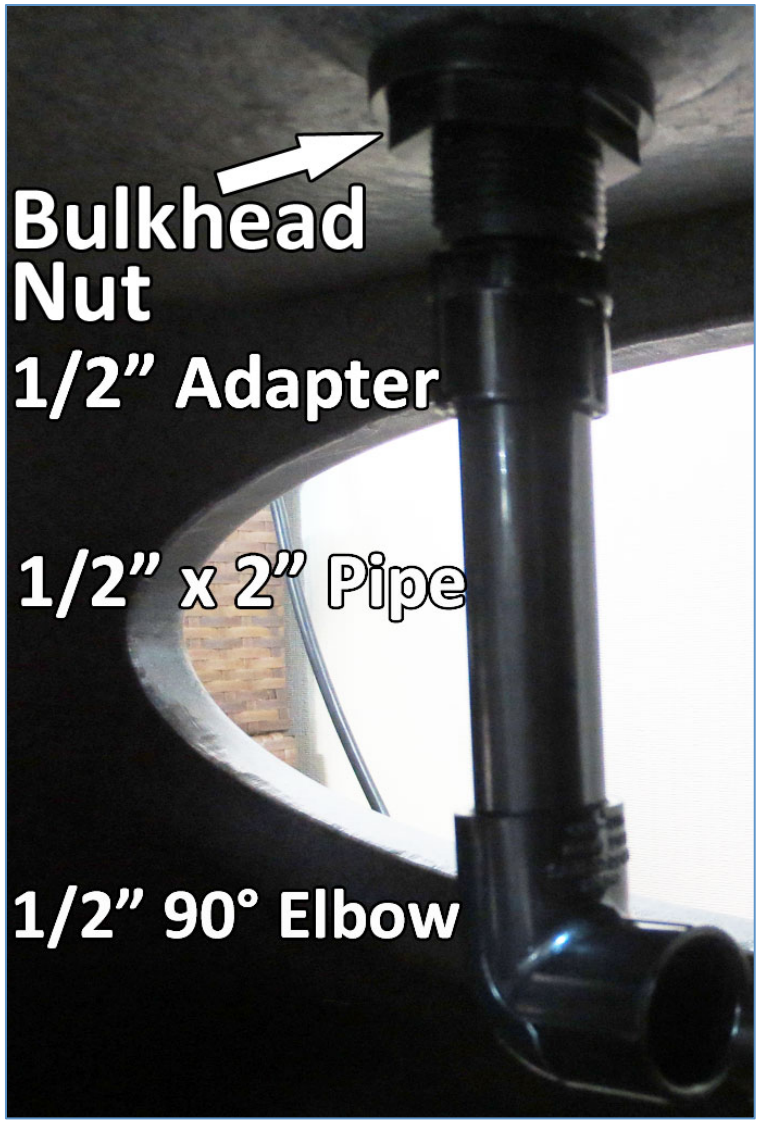

DRAIN PIPE INSTALLATION

Slide one end of the ½" x 4" pipe all the way into the preassembled drain pipe you just installed. Then, slide the other ½" 90° elbow all the way onto the other end of the ½" x 4" pipe with the 90° elbow facing downward as shown below.

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DRAIN PIPE END INSTALLATION

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Back on the topside of the grow bed, insert one end of the ½" x 8'
pipe into the top of the bulkhead. Then, slide the narrower end o
the bell siphon intake all the way onto the other end of the

½'
x 8" pipe as shown below.

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TOP OF SIPHON INSTALLATION

Lower the bell over the pipe (siphon) as shown below. The bottom of the bell will sit on the grow bed.

BELL INSTALLATION

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Lower the media guard (with the slits on the bottom end) over the bell as shown below. The bottom of the media guard will sit on the grow bed.

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MEDIA GUARD INSTALLATION

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Here is what your finished bell siphon should look like from above.

FINISHED BELL SIPHON

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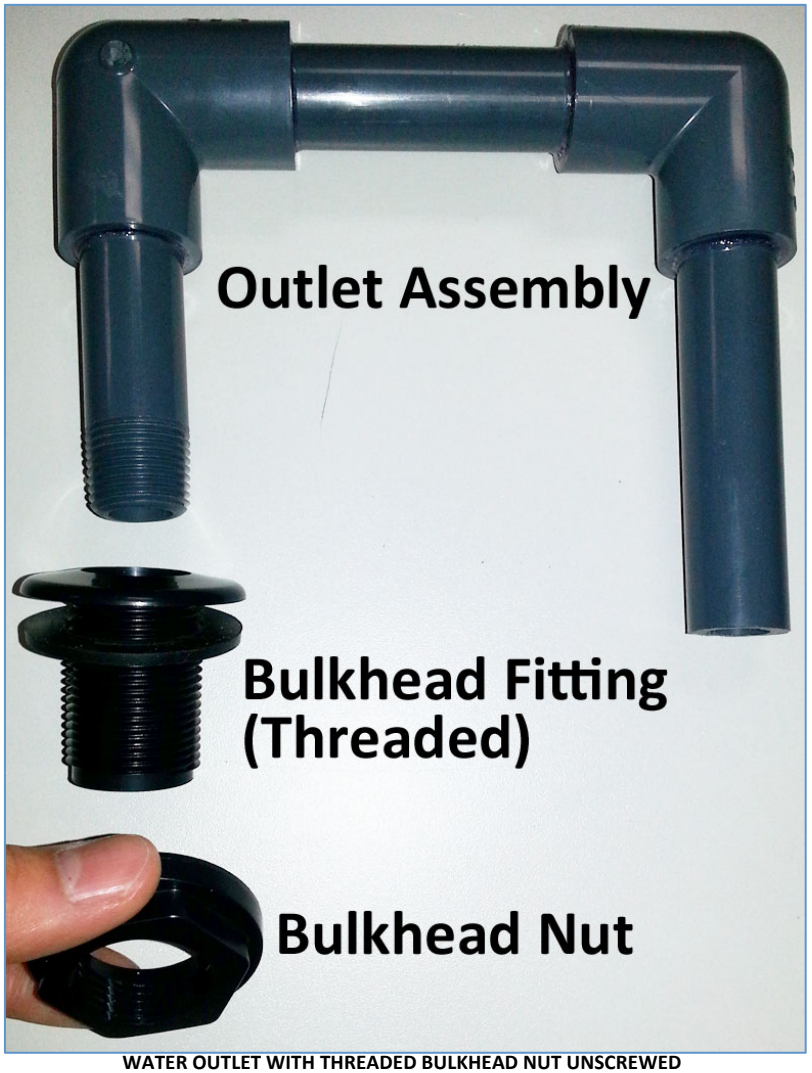
INSTALL WATER OUTLET

Just as you did previously with the unthreaded bulkhead, unscrew the nut from the threaded bulkhead while leaving the rubber gasket in place as shown below.



WATER OUTLET WITH THREADED BULKHEAD NUT UNSCREWED

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Screw the top of the bulkhead onto the threaded end of the outlet assembly. Then, screw the threaded end of the ½" hose barb into the bottom end of the bulkhead.

ASSEMBLED WATER OUTLET

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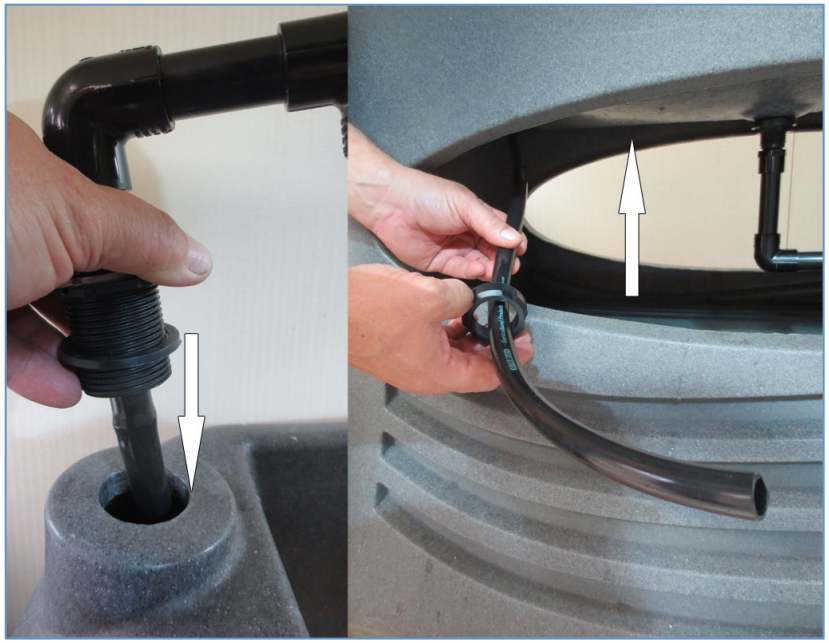
Attach the vinyl hose all the way onto the end of the ½” hose barb. Then, run the vinyl hose through the hole at the back left corner of the grow bed as shown below. From the *underside* of the grow bed, run the bulkhead nut up the vinyl hose, and screw the nut hand-tight onto the bottom of the bulkhead.



WATER OUTLET INSTALLATION

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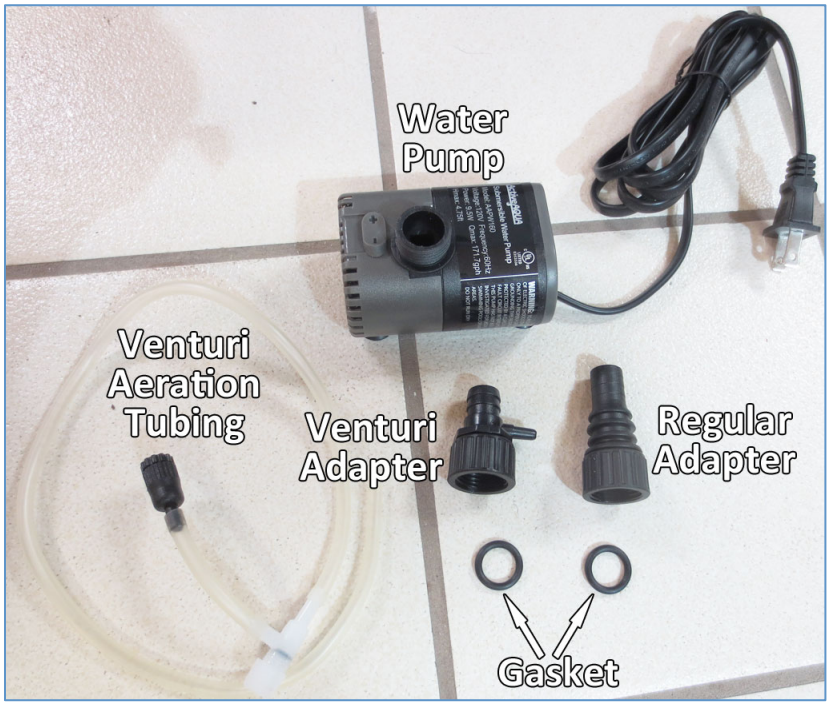
INSTALL WATER PUMP

Open the water pump box. You will find the following parts inside



WATER PUMP PARTS

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We will not be using the included Venturi aeration tubing and adapter in these instructions. These parts add extra aeration to your water, but the continuous flooding and draining of your aquaponics system will already create ample aeration. If you wish to install the optional Venturi aeration kit, please refer to the water pump's instruction manual.

Screw the regular adapter with one gasket hand-tight onto the water pump outlet as shown below.

WATER PUMP ADAPTER INSTALLATION

Your water pump comes with a 1-year limited warranty. Review the water pump's instruction manual for maintenance and operation instructions.

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Pull the gray front cover of the water pump from its black motor Remove the intake screen foam from inside the front cover a: shown below. You do not need this filter for your aquaponic: system. Snap the front cover back onto the motor.

INTAKE SCREEN FOAM REMOVAL

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Slide the free end of the vinyl hose all the way onto the water pump adapter as shown below.

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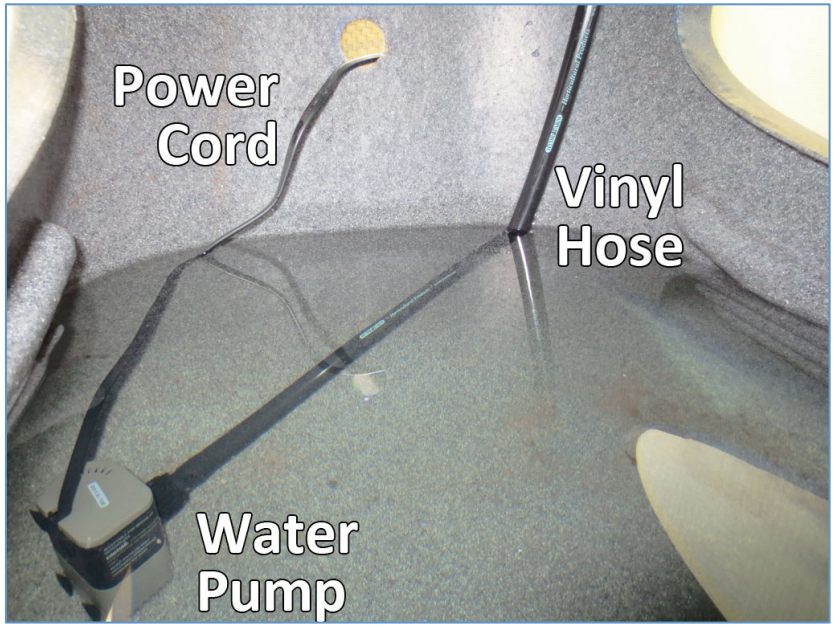
Place the water pump through the oval opening and rest it on the bottom of the system. This is your fish tank where water will be pumped up into your grow bed. Run the water pump's power cord through the small round opening on the left side of fish tank as shown below. *NOTE: The picture below shows some water already in the fish tank. You will add water in a later step.*

Do not plug your water pump in yet. Running your pump could damage it and void its warranty.



WATER PUMP ON THE BOTTOM OF THE FISH TANK

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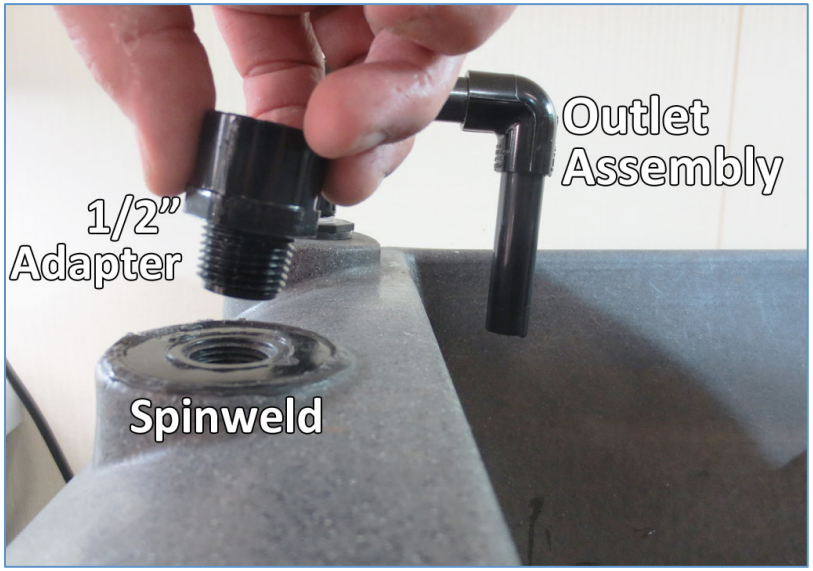
Thread the grommet onto the water pump's power cord, and insert it into the small round opening on the left side of the fish tank as shown below.

INSTALL LIGHT BAR (OPTIONAL)

Screw a ½" adapter into each spinweld in the middle left and right side of the grow bed as shown below.



LIGHT BAR ADAPTER INSTALLATION (LEFT SIDE)

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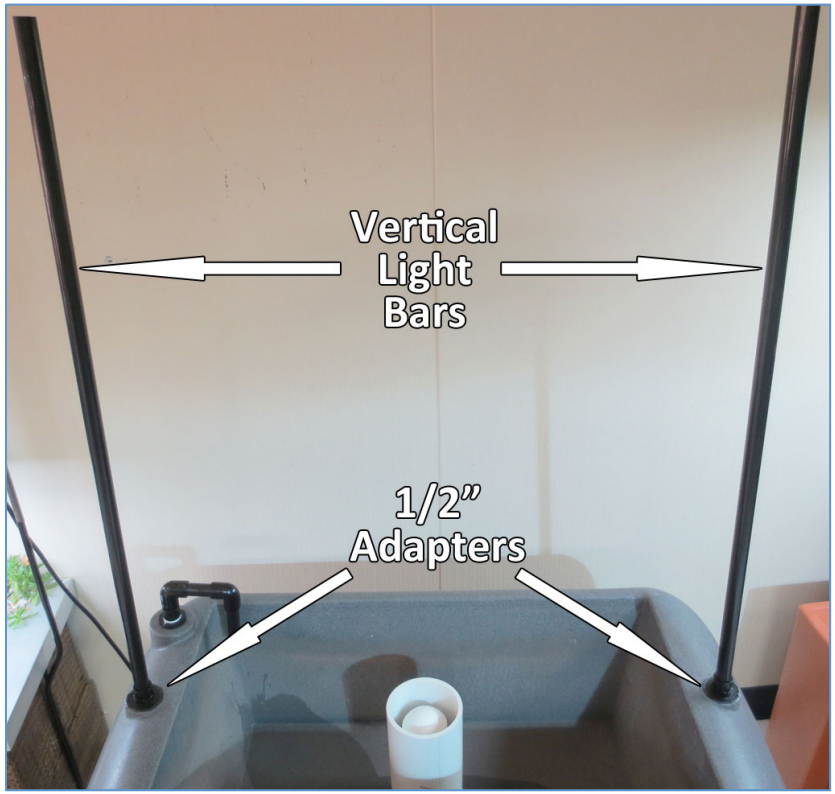
SLIDE A VERTICAL LIGHT BAR ALL THE WAY INTO EACH ½" ADAPTER AS SHOWN BELOW.



VERTICAL LIGHT BAR INSTALLATION

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Slide the ends of the horizontal light bar all the way down onto the top ends of the vertical light bars as shown below.

COMPLETED SYSTEM SHOWN WITH OPTIONAL GROW LIGHT

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Grow Media & Water

ADD GROW MEDIA

We highly recommend you thoroughly rinse your grow media (clay pebbles) with fresh water before use. Thoroughly rinsing the grow media will help keep your system and water clear of loose clay sediment. The easiest way to rinse your grow media is to poke several small holes along the bottom of the bag and spray water through the top.

Filling your grow bed is best done with at least two people. One person will cover and hold the media guard securely in place while the other person fills the grow bed with grow media. (Refer to the following pictures.) Level out your grow media as you are filling it. We have included enough grow media to fill your grow bed while allowing some room for your plants.

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COVERING AND HOLDING THE MEDIA GUARD SECURELY IN PLACE

FILLED GROW BED

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ADD WATER

We recommend using fresh tap or well water in your aquaponic: system. Avoid using distilled or reverse osmosis (RO) water.

You have *two options* for adding fresh water to your system.

1. If you are using a **water hose**, you can fill the fish tanl directly through the oval opening. Fill the fish tank up tc about 2-3 inches from the lip of the oval opening.
2. If you are using a **bucket**, it may be easier to pour the water into your grow bed rather than try to pour it directl through the oval opening. Carefully pour water into you grow bed until you see the water reach the top of you siphon. The top layer of your grow media will start to float (Refer to the following picture.) Stop pouring water, anc allow your siphon to drain all of the water in your grov bed down into your fish tank.

GROW BED FILLED WITH WATER

If you are using a **bucket** to add water to your system throug your grow bed, you may need to add more water to finish fillin

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your fish tank. Take care not to add so much water that you overfill your fish tank. The bell siphon will start to drain your grow bed only when it is full of water, and it will then drain *all* of the water in your grow bed into your fish tank.

TREAT WATER

Included with your Starter Kit are D-Klor Water Dechlorinator, Nite-Out II Nitrifying Bacteria, and powdered soluble seaweed. We will use each of these products to jump-start your new system's ecosystem so it is ready for your fish and plants.

First, read all of the instructions and warnings on the bottle of D-Klor Water Dechlorinator. Shake the bottle then add approximately 4 teaspoons of D-Klor to your fish tank water and let it circulate through your system. Store the rest as directed for future water additions.

Next, shake the bottle of Nite-Out II and add 2 fl oz (a capful) to your fish tank water every other day until the bottle is empty. This will jump-start the growth of beneficial bacteria throughout your system. These bacteria are essential for breaking down fish waste into nutrients for your plants.

Lastly, fill a small glass of water from your fish tank, and pour the entire contents of the included seaweed packet into it. Stir the water to allow the

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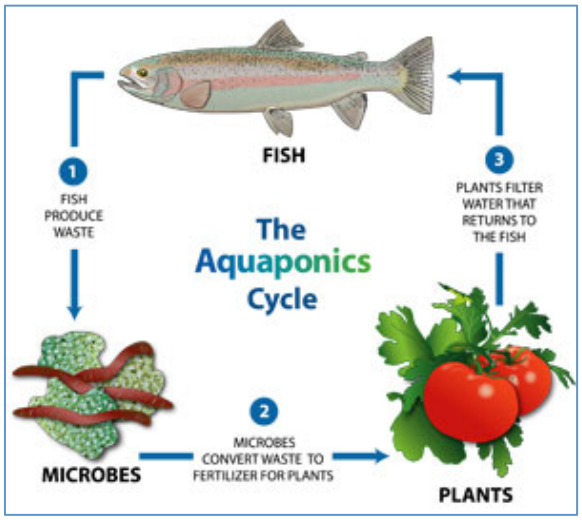
seaweed powder to dissolve. Then, add the seaweed water bacl to your fish tank. *NOTE: Your water will turn a dark coffee color This is perfectly normal and safe for your plants and fish. The water should clear up within a few days to a week or so.*

Plug your water pump in if you haven't already done so. We recommend you let your newly treated system run for at least a couple of days without plants and fish. This will give some time for the water to begin to clear and for its ecosystem to begin to establish itself.



Aquaponics Ecosystem

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FUTURE WATER TREATMENT

You will need to top the water off in your system on a regular basis as it transpires and evaporates.

Ideally, you will want to dechlorinate any water you add to the system. If you do not have any D-Klor handy, you may alternatively offgas the chlorine in your water by letting it sit in an open container for 1-2 days before adding it to your system. Glass or food-safe containers work best.

You do not need to add additional Nite-Out II to your water unless you empty and store your system for an extended period of time.

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Plants & Fish

Now that you have your system running smoothly with the grov media and treated fresh water, you are ready to add your plant: and fish!

ADD PLANTS

The Aspen Aquagrow is designed to support most houseplants flowers, greens, and even herbs such as basil, oregano, mint rosemary, and sage. We recommend planting a minimum of 4 anc a maximum of 6 plants. You will want to take the location of you system into account. Different plants like different amounts o light to grow well. If your preferred location does not provide enough light, you can use an artificial grow light such as a CFL (125W or 200W) or T5 (4 tubes, 2' long). For maximum effectiveness, be sure to use a bulb that is specifically designed fo use with plants, and replace your bulbs per manufacturer': recommendations. It is a good idea to place a timer on your lamp so you do not have to manually turn your lamp on and off ever day. (16 hours of light per day is a good starting point.) Each o these accessories can be easily obtained from **goodideasinc.com.**

You can add seeds, seedlings, or plants to your grow bed. The included grow media is designed to be easy to work with, but we recommend always using protective waterproof gloves to avoic getting bacteria in open cuts. If you are starting from seed, be sure to place the seeds deep enough into the grow media fo

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them to receive some moisture. With seedlings and plants, you will want to bury them deep enough for their roots to receive moisture. If transplanting soil-based plants, rinse the soil away from the roots first.

ADD FISH

You can add any freshwater aquarium fish appropriate for a 30-gallon aquarium to your Aspen Aquagrow system. Your local hobby aquarium shop or pet store is a good resource for determining the best fish to add based on the volume of your fish tank and the temperature range in which you plan to keep your system. We recommend *against* fish happier in high pH water such as African cichlids and brackish fish. Some common breeds of fish that may work well include South American cichlids, gouramis, loaches, rasboras, barbs, goldfish, guppies, mollies, platies and corydoras.

We recommend adding only 5-7 ornamental fish if they are a breed that can grow large such as goldfish. You could add as many as triple that number if you are adding ornamental fish such as guppies that will remain small. You will want to add toward the higher end of the quantity range if you are primarily growing heavier-feeding plants such as herbs and flowering plants, and toward the lower end if you are primarily growing lower-feeding plants such as houseplants and greens. *NOTE: You are able to stock your system more densely than a typical aquarium of the*

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same size due to the natural biofilter that exists in your system'
ecosystem.

Fish do not like sudden or rapid changes in their environment. You will want to slowly acclimate your fish to any changes in temperature and water quality. Follow the recommendations o your hobby aquarium shop or pet store. Generally, you will wan to do the following:

1. Place your fish in the system's fish tank while still in thei transport bag, and leave them there for at least 1(minutes.
2. Add a small amount of fish tank water to the transpor bag, and allow it to sit for at least 10 minutes. Be carefu not to allow the transport bag water to spill into your fis tank.
3. Repeat Step 2 another 4 times.
4. Use a fish net (or clean hands) to quickly but gentl transfer your fish to the fish tank. Do NOT add th transport bag water to your fish tank.
5. Discard the transport bag and water.

You may wish to keep the area dark for a few hours to bette allow your fish time to adjust to their new environment. Do no leave your fish in their transport bag for too long as there is n aeration in the transport bag, and your fish will eventually use u the oxygen in the bag's water.

Later, if you decide to add more fish, feed your existing fish befor adding the new ones so they will be not competing for food righ away.

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Your hobby aquarium store or pet store will be able to recommend the best food and feeding schedule for your new aquatic companions. For food growing systems, we recommend a high quality, nutritionally-balanced natural fish food such as **Home Grown Ponics™ Ornamental Fish Food**. You may want to adjust your feeding amount to provide more or less nutrients for your plants. Do not be surprised if your fish do not eat much right away. They may be stressed by their transportation and change in environment. In the unfortunate event that your fish do not survive, most reputable aquarium and pet stores have some kind of satisfaction guarantee period.

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Removing Fish

Your system is a complete ecosystem designed to stay in balance through the aquaponic cycle relationship between fish, beneficial bacteria, and plants. You do, however, have the option to remove the fish from your system. In doing so, your system will be converted from an aquaponic (soilless gardening + aquatic cultivation) system to a hydroponic (soilless gardening only system.

If you choose to remove your fish, you will have to regularly add nutrients to your system. Be sure to use *complete, organic-based nutrient* products for *hydroponic* gardens, and avoid products made only for soil-based gardens. We recommend Pure Blend® products by Botanicare® because they are organic-based and have low salt content, allowing you to more easily add fish back to your system in the future.

Pure Blend® Bloom, Tea, and Grow for hydroponic gardens

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Optimal Performance

Congratulations! You have finished setting up your new system. Just remember to feed your fish, top off the water, and prune or harvest your plants as needed. For optimal performance of your system, you may wish to perform some periodic maintenance. Recommended products to have on-hand include:

Peak Performance Pack
A convenient package of products for water pH and alkalinity testing and adjustment, and iron supplementation that will keep your system running at its best

D-Klor Water Dechlorinator
Recommended for dechlorinating any new water you add to your system

Tidy Tank Sludge Eradicator
Aids in breaking down organic debris and sludge to further improve water quality

Nite-Out or Zym-Bac beneficial nitrifying bacteria
Recommended to jump-start your system ecosystem after it has been emptied and stored for an extended period of time

Medium Buffer Bag
Aids in naturally stabilizing the pH level in your system for up to 6 months

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Pure Blend® Bloom, Tea and Grow for Hydroponic Gardening
In addition to running your system hydroponically (without fish), you can use this product as a light foliar spray for your heavier feeding plants.

Safer® Insect Killing Soap
A bug spray made for organic gardening. Use sparingly and avoid spraying into your grow bed media or water.

ClorAm-X
Essential if your area's water contains chloramine. (Contact your area's water treatment department.)

Home Grown Ponics Fish Food
High-quality 0.5mm fish food pellets for ornamental fish

Fish Prep Preventative Fish Bath
Therapeutic fish bath designed to help prevent the transfer of disease from newly introduced fish

Fish Therapy Curative Fish Bath
Curative fish bath and de-stressor for individual fish

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